

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /032 W

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R 191828Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6978

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 01732

E.O. 110652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: MINIMUM WAGE RATE

1. EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY THE MINIMUM WAGE (SMIC) WAS RAISED TO 7.89 FRANCS PER HOUR OR 1372.86 FRS PER MONTH ON THE BASIS OF STANDARD 174 HOURS PER MONTH (40 HOURS PER WEEK), OR 1458.67 FRS BASED ON PRESENT AVERAGE WORKWEEK OF 42 HOURS.

2. FOREGOING BRINGS TOTAL INCREASE OF SMIC DURING 1975 TO 16.9 PER CENT TO BE COMPARED WITH 9.6 PER CENT INCREASE IN OFFICIAL COST OF LIVING INDEX AND ESTIMATED 15.8 PER CENT INCREASE OF AVERAGE HOURLY WAGES OF BLUE COLLAR WORKERS.

3. SOME 4 PER CENT OF SALARIED POPULATION (ABOUT 500,000 WORKERS) STAND TO BENEFIT DIRECTLY BY THE SMIC ADJUSTMENT WHILE TWICE AS MANY WILL BENEFIT INDIRECTLY BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE PAID SLIGHTLY OVER THE SMIC.

4. THE UPDATING OF STATISTICAL DATA COMPUTED BY THE GOF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND SERVICES (ABOUT 12 MILLION

IN THE PRIVATE AND NATIONALIZED SECTORS) GIVES THE  
FOLLOWING RESULTS: 10 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL, I.E. 1.2 MILLION  
WORKERS EARN 1230 FRS PER MONTH NET (AFTER TAXES);  
22 PERCENT EARN LESS THAN 1500 FRs; AND 45 PERCENT LESS  
THAN 2000 FRs.

5. BY LAW THE MINIMUM WAGE RATE FOR YOUNG WORKERS  
(UNDER 18) IS REDUCED BY 20 WHICH GIVES A NEW HOURLY  
RATE OF 6.312 FRs IF THE WORKER IS UNDER 17 AND BY  
10 PERCENT (7.101 FRs) IF HE IS BETWEEN 17 AND 18.  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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